

conducted humanitarian operations in response to flooding in Kenya and demining efforts in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Yemen and Jordan.

The continued intransigence over United Nations weapons inspections resulted in General Zinni leading several military operations against Iraq. Operation DESERT FOX set Iraq's ballistic missile program back several years by destroying key facilities and specialized equipment during several days of combat operations. General Zinni activated a joint task force in Kenya to assist in recovery support after the 1998 terrorist bombing of the embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, while also taking military action against the terrorist infrastructure in Sudan and Afghanistan.

During his command, General Zinni participated in numerous diplomatic efforts within the Central Command area of responsibility. In the fall of 1998, he worked directly with the National Security Advisor to prevent Ethiopia and Eritrea from resorting to armed conflict over a border dispute. He also was instrumental in efforts to engage the Pakistani government after its nuclear tests. His two trips to Pakistan reinforced objections to Pakistan's nuclear tests and stressed the importance of avoiding a nuclear arms race between Pakistan and India.

Additionally, General Zinni orchestrated the command's large-scale overseas exercise. Conducted in Egypt, this exercise involved not only United States forces but also eleven participating countries, 33 observer nations, and 70,000 troops. This field training exercise emphasized coalition operations, interoperability, and computer simulation of exercise events. It also exhibited regional stability and cultural interaction.

General Zinni's decorations include: the Defense Distinguished Service Medal; the Defense Superior Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" and gold star; the Purple Heart; the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star; the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and gold star; the Navy Achievement Medal with gold star; the Combat Action Ribbon; the Vietnamese Honor Medal; the French National Order of Merit, and the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize General Zinni for serving the Marine Corps with honor and distinction for 35 years. He has provided a significant and lasting contribution to the Nation's security. I want to wish him and his wife, Debbie, best wishes in the days ahead. The Marine Corps will lose not one, but two exceptional people upon General Zinni's retirement. I know the Members of the House will join me in expressing our appreciation for their distinguished and faithful service to the country.

HONORING THE STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL CONGRESS OF GREATER CLEVELAND

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Student Environmental Congress

of Greater Cleveland, who held their fourth annual Earth Day Coalition Student Environmental Congress Day on March 22, 2000.

The Student Environmental Congress brings together students from the Greater Cleveland area who are dedicated to working towards a cleaner and healthier environment. The Congress develops environmentally-aware students throughout northeast Ohio, encouraging them to take action within their communities to form eco-groups committed to the conservation and preservation of the environment.

This program empowers high school students to be a voice in their community, to grow into environmentally literate citizens, and to network with environmentally conscious students from other schools.

The Student Environmental Congress Program assists high school students in the design and implementation of community-based, environmental service-learning projects. Students from Cleveland public schools unite with students from suburban schools to educate one another at an all-day, student-led conference. These students work together towards creating a more sustainable environment.

The accomplishments of this program are important for the future preservation of our environment. I take pride in recognizing the environmental leaders of northeast Ohio, and congratulate the Congress on another successful Conference Day in March.

My fellow colleagues, please join with me in honoring the Student Environmental Congress for their important and note-worthy goals and achievements.

A RESOLUTION HONORING AARON BAKER, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF HUDSON, MICHIGAN

**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2000*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Aaron Baker, winner of the 2000 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Aaron is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Aaron is an exceptional student at Hudson High School and possesses an impressive high school record.

Aaron has received numerous awards for his excellence in academics. Outside of school, he has received many awards for his involvement in the Jackson, Hillsdale, and Adrian Youth Symphony Orchestras.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and

congratulations to Aaron Baker for his selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all of his future endeavors.

HONORING GOVERNOR BENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2000*

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention the national recognition received by Governor Bent Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The team at Governor Bent Elementary is highlighted in a report by the Fordham Foundation for their effective teaching techniques.

Governor Bent is known for expecting a lot from all their students. There are no excuses, all students can do quality work. Creativity is fostered for the success of the students, parents, teachers and all staff. The results are high student test scores and student enrollment from outside their attendance area.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the Principal Marilyn Davenport and the team at Governor Bent Elementary School for their contributions to students and to the future of our community.

CONSERVATION TRUST FUND OF PUERTO RICO

**HON. PHILIP M. CRANE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2000*

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address an issue that we have been working on for almost five years. I am speaking about the funding question for the Conservation Trust Fund of Puerto Rico. As my colleagues may recall, in last year's Ticket to Work and Work Improvement Act tax bill, we included language that increased the amount of excise tax on rum covered over to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands from \$10.50 to \$13.25. We have written statutory language that mandated one-sixth of the increase would be directed toward the endowment fund of the Conservation Trust. During the negotiations on the bill it was decided that this language would not be included when the government of Puerto Rico committed to transfer these funds to the Conservation Trust. I am pleased to say that the first payment has in fact been transferred to the Trust. This extension of the rum tax increase will last for thirty months. At that time we will have to revisit the question whether we have fulfilled our commitment to fully endow the Trust Fund.

Recently we passed the Africa-CBI Trade bill and inserted language that will accelerate the payments of the rum tax cover over to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. I want to